

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/662,019

Examiner

Brenda Pham

Applicant(s)

VOLFTSUN ET AL.

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/11/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-12,14-20,22-33, renumbering as 1-30, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/09/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

BRENDA PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Brenda A. Pham 3/24/06

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher J Palermo, Reg. No. 42,056 on March 22, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 5, 13 and 21 are canceled.

- Claim 1 is deleted in entirety and is replace it with the following:

"In a virtual private network that provides voice and data communications, the virtual private network including a first private network and a second private network connected by a first communication network that supports voice communications and not supports at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, a method of providing the advanced voice communication feature for a call from the first private network to the second private network, the method comprising the steps of:

- establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network that supports the advanced voice communication feature;

- determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature;

converting the signaling message in a first protocol to a second signaling message in a second protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature;
transmitting the second signaling message between the first private network and the second private network through the auxiliary communication network;
prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network, establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and
wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network."

-Claim 2 "is capable of supporting" is amended to "supports".

-Claim 4 "is capable of supporting" is amended to "supports".

- Claim 10 is deleted in entirety and is replaced it with the following:

"An apparatus that interconnects a first private network to a second private network through a first communication network that supports voice communications and not supports at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, and that interconnects the first private network to the second private network through a second communication network that supports voice communications and data communications and supports the at least

Art Unit: 2664

one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, the apparatus comprising:

- a first communications interface coupled between the first private network and the first communication network so as to communicate information therebetween;

- a second communications interface coupled between the first private network and the second network so as to communicate messages in a protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature;

- a processor coupled to the first communications interface and the second communications interface; and

- a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising one or more instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

- establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;

- determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature;

- converting the signaling message in a first protocol to a second signaling message in the protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature;

- transmitting the second signaling message between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;

- prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network,

establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network.”

-Claim 12 “is capable of supporting” is amended to “supports”.

- Claim 18 is deleted in entirety and is replaced it with the following:

“A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for providing an advanced voice communication feature for a call from a first private network to a second private network that is interconnected to the first private network through a first communication network that supports voice communications and not supports at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network and that is interconnected to the first private network through a second communication network that supports voice communications and data communications and supports the at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:
establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;
determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature;

converting the signaling message in a first protocol to a second signaling message in the protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature; transmitting the second signaling message between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network; prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network, establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network."

-Claim 20 "is capable of supporting" is amended to "supports".

- Claim 26 is deleted in entirety and is replaced it with the following:

"An apparatus that interconnects a first private network to a second private network through a first communication network supports voice communications and not supports at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, and that interconnects the first private network to the second private network through a second communication network that supports voice communications and data communications and supports the at least one advanced voice communication feature that is supported by the first private network and the second private network, the apparatus comprising:

means for establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;

means for determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature;

means for converting the signaling message in a first protocol to a second signaling message in the protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature;

means for transmitting the second signaling message between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;

prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network, establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and

wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network."

- Claim 27 is deleted in entirety and is replaced it with the following:

"A system comprising:

a first private network that supports an advanced voice communication feature;

a first protocol converter coupled to the first private network;

a first communication network coupled to the first protocol converter and employing a protocol that is not supports the advanced voice communication feature;

a second protocol converter coupled to the first communication network;

a second private network that supports the advanced voice communication feature and supporting data communications and that is coupled to the second protocol converter; and

a second communication network that supports the advanced voice communication feature and that is coupled to the first protocol converter and the second protocol converter, the second communication network for transmitting a converted signaling message, between the first protocol converter and the second protocol converter, in a protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature;

wherein the first protocol converter comprises a first communications interface coupled between the first private network and the first communication network so as to communicate information therebetween; a second communications interface coupled between the first private network and the second network so as to communicate message in a protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advanced voice communication feature; a processor coupled to the first communications interface and the second communication interface; and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising one or more instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the second communication network;

determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature;

converting the signaling message in a first protocol to a second signaling message in the protocol for handling messages that pass enough information to implement the advance voice communication feature;

transmitting the second signaling message between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network;

prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network, establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and

wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network."

-Claim 29, "is capable of supporting" is amended to "supports".

- Newly claims 30-33 are added.

Claim 30 (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the means for establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network includes means for establishing the connection in response to determining that a signaling message from the first private network invokes the advanced voice communication feature.

Claim 31 (New) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising means for intercepting, from the first private network, the signaling message that invokes the advanced voice communication feature, wherein the first private network is the private network from which the call originates.

Claim 32 (New) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising means for intercepting, from the second private network, the signaling message that invokes the advanced voice communication feature, wherein the second private network is the private network at which the call terminates.

Claim 33 (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the advanced voice communication feature is a custom calling feature from a group consisting of call-waiting, call-forwarding, and three-way-calling.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-33 allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art made of record fails to teach or fairly suggests in combination the steps of prior to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network, establishing a connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network; and wherein the connection between the first private network and the second private network through an auxiliary communication network is established from the second private network in response to establishing the connection between the first private network and the second private network through the first communication network.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2664

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Civanlar et al (US 5,995,606) disclose a client-server network enables interconnection to both the Internet and switched network.

DuVal (US 5,818,836) discloses method and apparatus for anonymous voice communication using an online data service.

McMullin (US 5,809,128) disclose method and apparatus permitting notification and control of blocked incoming calls over a data network.

Conclusion

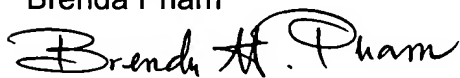
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matar Ahmad, can be reached on (571) 272-7488.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

March 23, 2006

Brenda Pham



**BRENDA PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**